

SENECIO MAHINDAE (SENECIONEAE: ASTERACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM TAMAULIPAS, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

Senecio mahindae Nesom & Vorobik is described from the Sierra de San Carlos in Tamaulipas, México. It is most closely related to *S. platypus* Greenman but differs from it most prominently in its strongly rhizomatous habit, shorter and nearly scapose stems, and lyrate leaves.

SENECIO mahindae Nesom & Vorobik, sp. nov. Fig. 1.

Senecio platypus Greenman affinis sed habitu rhizomatoso, caulibus fere scaposis, foliis lyratis, capitulis campanulatis, phyllariis glabris brevioribus, et flosculis discii brevioribus differt.

Herbaceous, colonial perennial from a branching system of slender woody rhizomes up to 15 cm long. Stems (8–) 12–30 cm tall, moderately villous with appressed hairs, occasionally branched in the lower $1/3 - 1/2$. Leaves mostly basal, sometimes distributed in the lower $1/8 - 1/6$ of the stem except for a few minute, filiform bracts at the upper nodes, lyrate to pinnatifid with broad lobes, basally auriculate-clasping, 6–12 cm long, 2.5–5.5 cm wide, white-villous beneath, sparsely villous above but greenish, upper surface also with numerous larger, jointed, flattened and vitreous hairs, glabrescent except for the larger, vitreous hairs. Heads 1–4, clustered in the upper 1–4 cm of the stem, campanulate, 12–15 mm broad (pressed); receptacle shallowly conical, ca 3 mm broad; phyllaries linear-lanceolate, 5–7 mm long 0.8–1 mm wide, with narrow, scarious margins, midportion green and densely villous. Ray flowers 11–14 in one series, 12–15 mm long, the tube 3–4 mm long, abruptly broadened to the ligule, ligule 3–3.8 mm wide, 3–4-veined, yellow-orange. Disc flowers 4.5–5.5 mm long, the tube 2.5–2.8 mm long, the lobes lanceolate, 1 mm long. Achenes cylindrical to narrowly fusiform-cylindrical, 2.5–3 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, dark

brown to blackish at maturity, densely set in lines with short, thick, white, blunt-tipped hairs.

TYPE: MÉXICO. TAMAULIPAS, Mpio. San Carlos, Sierra de San Carlos, ca. 8 km N of San Carlos, N side of Bufo El Diente, igneous bedrock, woods of *Quercus*, *Ostrya*, *Carya*, scattered *Abies*, ca 750–1100 m, 24°31.5'N, 98°57.6'W, 18 June 1987, Guy Nesom 6098 with John Norris, Mahinda Martínez and Lindsay Woodruff (HOLOTYPE: TEX; ISOTYPES: KSC, MEXU, US, UAT [Victoria, Mex.]).

Additional collection examined: [type locality], 2 Jun 1986, Mahinda Martínez 1093 (TEX).

The new species is named for Mahinda Martínez, Curator of the Herbarium at the Instituto de Ecología y Alimentos, Victoria, Tamaulipas. She is an able taxonomist and enthusiastic explorer and collector of the Tamaulipan region.

Senecio mahindae is known only from the type locality, where it is common. It grows in scattered colonies on the tops of large boulders, commonly mixed with bryophytes, and forms yellow patches scattered through the woods. It is easily recognized by its rhizomatous, colonial habit, basal clusters of lyrate leaves with auriculate-clasping bases, and slender, nearly scapose stems. Also of distinction are two types of hairs on the upper leaf surface (one threadlike and forming the villosity, the other much thicker, shorter, flattened, and vitreous), campanulate heads with phyllaries densely villous and 5–7 mm long, and disc flowers 4.5–5.5 mm long.

The species most similar to *Senecio mahindae* and almost certainly related as a sister species is *S. platypus* Greenman, which is known only from the area immediately to the south of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, about 175 air kilometers to the west of the Sierra de San Carlos. Greenman (1907) commented in his description of *S. platypus* that “the conspicuous stipular-like development at the base of the petioles renders this species easily recognizable, and quite distinct from any other species known to the writer.” Most prominently, the two taxa share similarly shaped leaves with the “stipular-like,” auriculate-clasping bases, villous leaves and stems, and similar achenes. *Senecio platypus*, in contrast, is an erect, annual (?) herb 0.5–2 meters tall from a taproot; its leaf blades are triangular to oblanceolate (much less dissected), the leaves are not reduced upwards and extend into the inflorescence, and they lack the large, vitreous hairs of *S. mahindae*; the heads of *S. platypus* are cylindrical, its phyllaries glabrate and 7–8.5 mm long, and its disc flowers are 6–7 mm long. Barkley (1975) placed *S. platypus* in [group] Herbacei [series] Triangulares.

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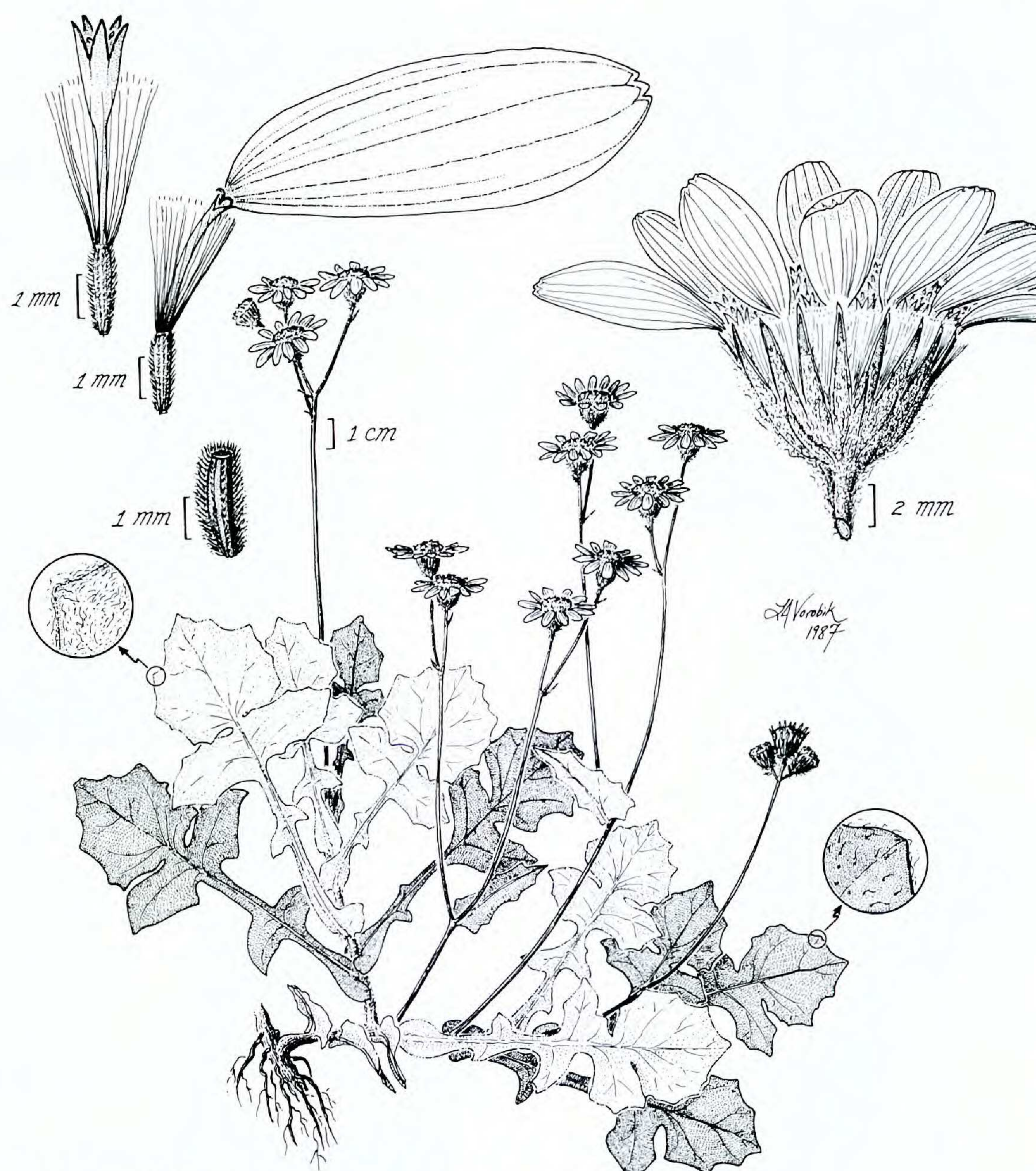


FIG. 1. Habit sketch and details of *Senecio mahindae* Nesom & Vorobik.

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